

**ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT
HABITAT PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE
HABITAT ENHANCEMENT AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PROPOSAL**

Game Branch / HPC Project Number: 15-502

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Water Catchment #981 Newman Peak Redevelopment

Region and Game Management Unit: Region 5, GMU 37A

Local Habitat Partnership Committee (LHPC):

- Tucson

Was the project presented to the LHPC?

YES☒ **NO**☐

Has this project been submitted in previous years? **YES**☒ **NO**☐

If Yes, was it funded? **YES**☐ **NO**☒ → **Funded HPC Project #(s):**

Project Type: Wildlife Water Catchment Redevelopment

Brief Project Summary: This water catchment is non-functional. This project will be a complete redevelopment of wildlife water catchment #981. It is unknown when this catchment, if ever, was fully functional. With the recent desert bighorn sheep sightings in the area and the recent release in the Catalina Mountains, it is important to reestablish this as a functioning, reliant source of water.

Big Game Wildlife Species to Benefit: Bighorn Sheep, Mule Deer, White-tailed Deer, Javelina

Implementation Schedule (Month/Day/Year):

Project Start Date: Spring/Summer 2016

Project End Date: Spring/Summer 2016

Environmental Compliance:

NEPA Completed: Yes☐ No☒ N/A☐

Projected Completion Date: Winter 2015/16

State Historic Preservation Office - Archaeological Clearance:

Yes☐ No☒ N/A☐

Projected Completion Date: Fall 2015

Arizona Game and Fish Department EA Checklist: N/A☐

To be Completed by: Joe Currie

Projected Completion Date: When funded

PROJECT FUNDING

Special Big Game License Tag Funds Requested: \$ 43,196.62

Cost Share or Matching Funds: \$ 15,656.00

Total Project Costs: \$ 58,852.62

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

Applicant (please print):

Jon McClard, AGFD

Address:

555 N. Greasewood Rd
Tucson, AZ 85705

E-mail: jmcclard@azgfd.gov

Telephone: 520-628-5376

Date: August 26, 2015

AGFD Contact and Phone No. (If applicant is not AGFD personnel):

Project has been coordinated with:

Darrell Tersey, BLM – Tucson Field Office; Ed Jarke, Development Branch; Brian Dolan ADBSS

NEED STATEMENT – PROBLEM ANALYSIS:

The Picacho Mountains have functioning water catchments around the base, but no perennial water at higher elevations. Surveys show mostly mule deer, but some white-tailed deer in the area, along with javelina. The CAP canal and I-10 have created a barrier to the west that likely restricts movement to the mountains to the west, including the Sawtooths and Silver Bells. This is especially true for desert bighorn sheep. In the spring of 2013 two young rams were seen on the west side of I-10 crossing from the frontage road back into Picacho State Park. In August 2012 a ram was killed when it was caught in a fence off of Hauser Road in the flats to the west of the Picachos. This ram had been caught on a game camera the previous year in the Mineral Mountain. With the reintroduction of Sheep into the Catalinas it is possible that these sheep could move northwest to the Picachos. These mountains could be an important link to the connectivity of desert bighorn sheep populations.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

This redevelopment will require removing two sausage tanks and replacing it with a 3' deep X 16' diameter tank (4500 gallons) with a 20' x 24' collection apron; replace the current trough with a 3' high x 4' long standard walk-in wildlife-friendly fiberglass trough. No fence will be installed.

- Increase deer and javelina populations by providing dependable, long term, self-sustaining, quality water sources.
- Have water available for sheep if/when they move to the Picacho Mountains.
- Increase hunter opportunity.
- Install a system that has a long lifespan (40-50 years for storage and collection systems, 25 years for drinking troughs).
- Install a system that does not require supplemental hauling except in rare or exceptional circumstances.

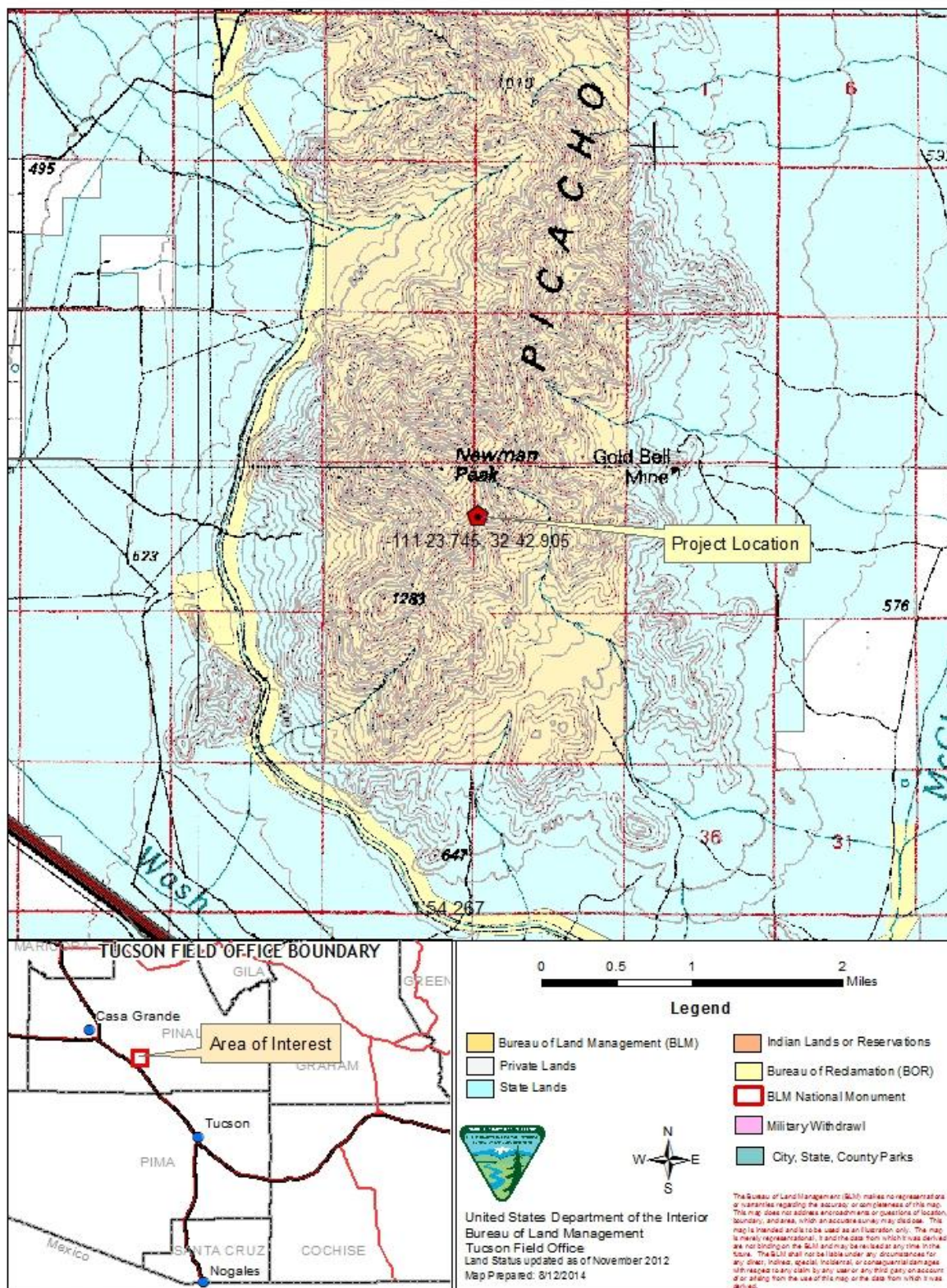
PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND STRATEGIES:

Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) personnel (both AGFD Region V and Special Services Development Branch Crew), and the Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society (ADBSS) will initially fly up to the site, and begin removing the existing collection apron, tank and trough. As these items are dismantled, they will be flown off the mountain as new materials are flown up. The tank site will be prepped to receive the new tank (4,500 gallons) and apron, and the trough will be set and plumbed into the new tank. All project labor, including ADBSS and Department personnel will be flown to and from the site every day via helicopter. All new and old construction debris will be flown off site, and disposed of in proper recycle and trash containers. Some water may be flown up to aid in construction and test the new plumbing system.

PROJECT LOCATION:

This project is located atop the Picacho Mountains, north of Tucson, in Game Management Unit 37A.

Water Catchment #981 Newman Peak Redevelopment



Document Path: T:\ADTucson_POD\gamebranch\Project\TPO_Template_Sc11\Portall_C6.mxd

LAND OWNERSHIP AT THE PROJECT SITE(S):

(if the project area is private property, please state specifically and provide the landowner's name)

- Bureau of Land Management-Tucson Field Office

IF PRIVATE PROPERTY, IS THERE A COOPERATIVE BIG GAME STEWARDSHIP or LANDOWNER AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LANDOWNER AND THE DEPARTMENT?

YES[] NO[] N/A[]

HABITAT DESCRIPTION:

The Picacho Mountains are an area of relatively steep, rugged terrain northwest of Tucson, surrounded by desert flats. They are part of a small complex of mountains and hills that includes Picacho Peak (separated by Interstate 10), and the Durham and Suizo hills to the east. Primary habitat is Sonoran desert scrub. The CAP canal runs along the west side of the Picacho Mountains creating a barrier to wildlife, except for a few crossing installations.

ITEMIZED USE OF FUNDS:

Special Big Game License Tag Funds

2 – 8'w X 13'l X 51"d 2,500 Gallon Polyethylene water storage tanks	\$6,640.22
24' X 24' steel collection apron	\$6,406.40
4'd X 5'w X 8'l Polyethylene Walk-in trough and Gutter	\$4,150.00
Plumbing	\$500.00
Helicopter time	\$25,000.00
Remote Digital Monitoring Camera	\$500.00
Total	\$43,196.62

Cost Share or Matching Funds (for volunteer labor rates please refer to the worksheet below)

Volunteer Labor	\$5,656.00 (40 volunteers X 10 hours + 20 vehicles @ 120 miles RT)
SSDV Crew and Vehicles	\$10,000.00
Total	\$15,656.00

LIST COOPERATORS AND DESCRIBE POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION:

AGFD SS Development Branch
AGFD Region V
ADBSS
BLM – Tucson Field Office

WOULD IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS PROJECT ASSIST IN PROVIDING, MAINTAINING, OR FACILITATING RECREATIONAL ACCESS?

YES[] NO[] N/A[X]

PROJECT MONITORING PLAN:

Project would be monitored by SSDV up to and during redevelopment, to include all required federal and state compliance paperwork; all project material and flight expenses; all state and federal volunteer paperwork and a final construction completion report with 'as built' drawings. This information will be housed in AGFD SSDV Water Development hard files and the SSDV Water Development data base located at the AGFD Headquarters, 5000 W. Carefree Highway, Phoenix, AZ 85086. Regular welfare monitoring will occur as deemed appropriate by the GMU 37A Wildlife Manager with occasional field support from the ADBSS.

PROJECT MAINTENANCE:

Any project maintenance will be assumed by the AGFD SSDV Branch and AGFD Region V. Minor maintenance will also be conducted as needed by the Wildlife Manager. The AGFD Development Branch will be responsible for major maintenance issues

PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT TO BE FILED BY:

Jon McClard, AGFD Region V GMU 37A Wildlife Manager

WATER DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS *(please use the worksheet below):*

TREE CLEARING/REMOVAL PROJECTS *(please use the worksheet below):*

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

WATER DEVELOPMENT WORKSHEET

PROJECT TITLE: Water Catchment #981 Newman Peak Redevelopment

- 1) **Is the water development listed as a priority in the most recent “Wildlife Water Development Annual Implementation Schedule?”**
No
- 2) **Please list the Development Branch personnel and date coordinated with for this project.**
Ed Jahrke, August 2013
- 3) **What is the estimated annual inches of precipitation for the area? (mark one)**
☐2-4 ☐4-6 ☐6-8 ☒8-10 ☐10-12 ☐12-14 ☐14-16 ☐ >16
- 4) **Is there a perennial water source available to big game within four miles of this project?**
YES☒ (please complete #5 below) NO☐ (skip #5 below)
- 5) **For the accessible, perennial water source nearest this project:**
Name of water source: AGFD Catchment #689
Type of water source (catchment, spring, dirt tank): Catchment
Ownership of water source: AGFD
Distance in miles from project: 1.6 miles
- 6) **Is the target wildlife species a result of transplant efforts? YES☒ NO☐**
Desert bighorn sheep were reintroduced in the Catalinas in Fall 2013
- 7) **Please list any special land management status for the project site (i.e. Wilderness, National Park, National Monument). If private land, list landowner.**
N/A
- 8) **Please provide the following information about access to the proposed site:**
Type of access (mark one): ☐2x4 vehicles ☐4x4 only ☒foot only**

 **If foot access only: Distance in miles: 1.5 Approximate hiking time: 1 hour
 -- Does access to this site require crossing private or tribal lands? YES☐ NO☒
 -- Please describe any restrictions to public access
- 9) **Please list below (or on a separate sheet) the material type and dimensions of each component proposed to be added, modified, or repaired.**
2 - 8'w X 13'l X 51"d 2,500 Gallon Polyethylene water storage tanks;
1 - 24' x 24' steel collection apron, including all support sub structures;
1 - 4'd X 5'w X 8'l Polyethylene Walk-in trough and Gutter;
All required plumbing (3" schedule 80 PVC pipe and fittings, 3" brass ball valve and large plastic valve/irrigation box), pre-mixed 300 psi concrete and 8" x 8" x 16" cinder block for anchoring substructure and solidifying trough, and mortar for accentuating steps in trough added;
- 10) **Was a site visit completed? Yes☒ No☐**
 If Yes, please list personnel that attended and date.
 Kevin Clarke and Paul Puckett-AGFD Development Branch; Brian Dolan – ADBSS

February 2013